



cc 31  
Federal Communications Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20554

AUG 4 1998

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98-04386

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AUG 24 1998

FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

The Honorable Jesse Helms  
United States Senator  
P.O. Box 2944  
Hickory, NC 28603

Dear Senator Helms:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of your constituent, Ms. Maureen Hughes, regarding a fee that may be added to some consumers' telephone bills by carriers to recover their contributions to the universal service support mechanisms. On May 7, 1997, the Commission, as required by the Telecommunications Act of 1996 (1996 Act), adopted a first Report and Order to implement the Federal-State Joint Board's recommendations on universal service. The Commission established universal service support mechanisms that fulfill Congress's goal, as stated in Section 254 of the 1996 Act, of ensuring that affordable, quality telecommunications services are available to all American consumers, including those located in high cost, rural, and insular areas and low income consumers. In addition, these mechanisms implement Congress's mandate to ensure the nation's classrooms' and libraries' access to the vast array of educational resources that are accessible through the telecommunications network. These support systems also will link health care providers located in rural areas to urban medical centers so that patients living in rural America will have access, through the telecommunications network, to the same advanced diagnostic and other medical services that are available in urban communities.

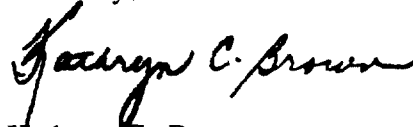
In the 1996 Act, Congress stated that all telecommunications carriers that provide interstate telecommunications services must contribute on an equitable and nondiscriminatory basis to universal service. The Commission implemented this statutory provision by requiring all telecommunications carriers to contribute to the universal service support mechanisms. Neither Congress, nor the Commission, require carriers to pass this contribution on to their customers. To the contrary, carriers decide how and to what extent they recover their contributions. Carriers, however, may not mislead customers as to how they recover contributions and may only recover an equitable share from any particular customer.

The Commission is monitoring the universal service support mechanisms and their impact on telephone ratepayers. This issue will be carefully reviewed as the support mechanisms are administered.

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J. C. COE

Your constituent's letter has been placed in the official public record of the universal service proceeding (CC Docket No. 96-45). I appreciate your interest in these important issues.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kathryn C. Brown". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Kathryn" being more prominent.

Kathryn C. Brown  
Chief  
Common Carrier Bureau

JESSE HELMS  
NORTH CAROLINA

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3301

CCB  
96-45  
4386 me

June 4, 1998

Chief, Common Carrier Bureau  
Informal Complaints Branch  
STOP CODE 1600A2  
2025 M Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20554

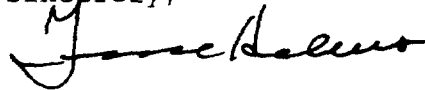
Dear Sir:

Enclosed please find a copy of a recent letter sent to me by Maureen Hughes, 704 Fred Miller Road, Lexington, NC 27292-7610, as to her complaint against Telecommunications Regulatory Fees she has been charged.

I am bringing this matter to your attention at my constituents request. Certainly, I would appreciate your looking into this situation and advising me of your findings. Please correspond with me about this matter through my Hickory Office, P. O. Box 2944, Hickory, NC 28603.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Sincerely,



JESSE HELMS:jks

Enclosure

704 Fred Miller Road  
Lexington  
North Carolina 27292 7610  
3/11/98

Congressman Jesse Helms  
House of Representatives  
Washington  
DC 20515

10712

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#38 87

Honourable Senator,

Please find enclosed letter sent to 360 communication re Regulatory Fees, I do not see why I am expected to pay this to reimburse the telephone company, I pay Taxes and the taxes I pay are supposed to be used to assist those who have problems, this is just another tax under another name and as far as I am concerned it is fraud, It is another way for the government to obtain money, but as they know people are fed up with taxes they come up with all these new gimmicks to defraud the American public. I am sure if we go on like this eventually we will be able to eliminate actual taxes altogether because we will be paying money under a hundred thousand different names to fool us.

Thanking you for your anticipated co-operation in this matter  
Yours sincerely,

Maureen Hughes

Maureen Hughes

704 Fred Miller Road  
Lexington  
North Carolina 27292 7610

360 Communications  
P O Box 96019  
Charlotte,  
North Carolina 28296-0019

Dear Sir,

Referring to Bulletin Board, Re Telecommunications Regulatory Fees,

I see no reason why I should be expected to help you recover government imposed charges related to the Universal Service Fund. You are a business and if you cannot afford to supply this service, tell the government and refuse to do so. I certainly do not care whether rural communities, low income telephone subscribers, schools, libraries or rural health care facilities have a telephone or not, as far as I am concerned if they cannot afford one they should not have one.

I object to paying this charge and if this is something the government insists you do, then you do it, but do not expect me to help reimburse you. If it is something you cannot afford to do unless I reimburse you then refuse to do it.

I would appreciate it if in future you would deduct this amount from my telephone bill.

Copy of this letter sent to my Congressman and to my Senator.

Yours sincerely,

Maureen Hughes